RAWHIDE KID
15¢ CC 88 JUNE

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

# RAWHIDE KID

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

YOU GOT 'EM ALL, JESS!

IT WUZ YORE COACHIN'--YORE TEACHIN'! YOU'VE MADE ME A GUNFIGHTER!

LOOK! HE KILLED JOE SLADE!

NO ONE CAN STAND UP TO HIM! HE'S TOO FAST--TOO DEADLY!

HE--HE'S GONE GUN-CRAZY!

AND IT'S MY FAULT-- MINE!

## GUN-FEVER!

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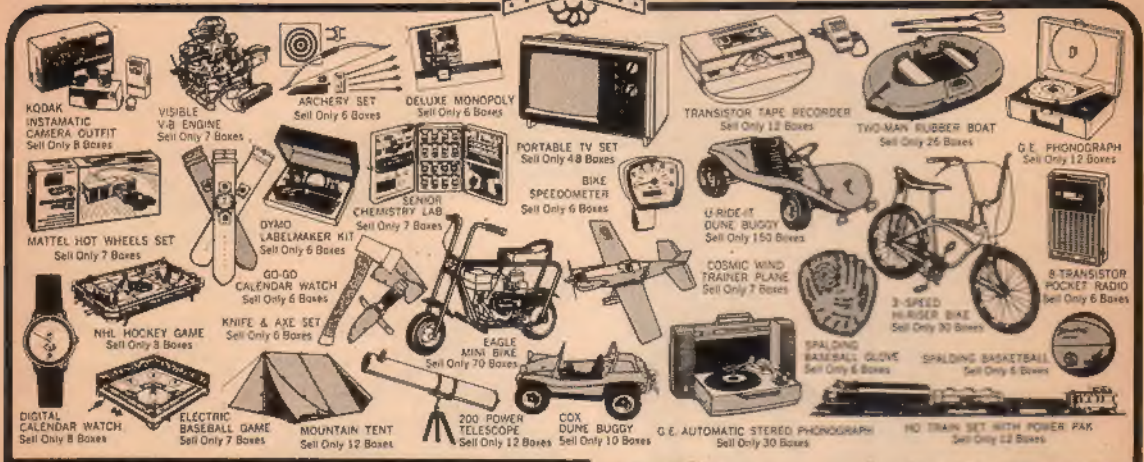
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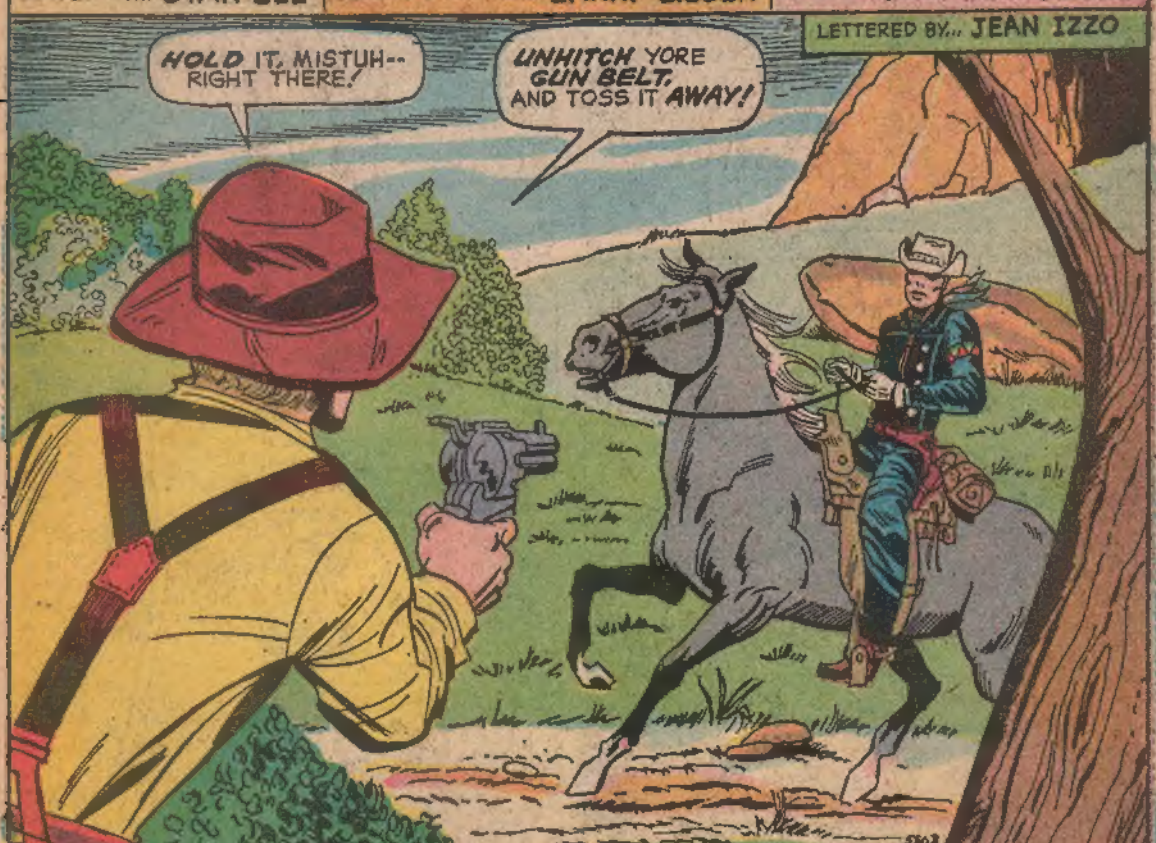
OLYMPIC SALES CLUB, INC., DEPT. 71MV2, ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT 06082

# RAW-HIDE KID

# GUN FEVER!

OUR TALE BEGINS BY THE SIDE OF A LONELY ROAD... WHERE WE FIND A HIDDEN FIGURE WAITING WITH ANXIOUS EYES AND A TREMBLING HAND!
HERE COMES A RIDER!
I'VE GOT TO MAKE MY PLAY, NOW!

EDITED BY... STAN LEE | SCRIPT + ART BY... LARRY LIEBER | INKED BY:: JOHN TARTAGLIONE | LETTERED BY... JEAN IZZO

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IF IT'S MONEY YOU'RE AFTER, I'M AFRAID THAT YOU'RE WASTIN' YOUR TIME!
I'M NOT CARRYING ANY BIG PAYROLL!
I DON'T WANT YORE MONEY! I'M NO THIEF!
NOW GET DOWN FROM THERE!
NOT A THIEF, EH?
THEN, JUST WHAT DO YOU WANT, BOY?
I WANT TO BORROW YORE HOSS FOR A SPELL!
I AIN'T GOT A HOSS OF MUH OWN, AND I NEED ONE REAL BAD!
WHEN I'M DONE WITH HIM, I'LL LEAVE HIM AT THE LIVERY STABLE IN SULPHUR SPRINGS!
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, BOY! YOU'LL BE RETURNING HIM A LOT SOONER THAN THAT!
2

TWEET!
AT THE SOUND OF HIS MASTER'S SIGNAL, NIGHTWIND SUDDENLY REARS!
I-- I'M FALLIN'!
'PEARS LIKE THE TABLES HAVE TURNED A MITE!
W-WHUT ARE YUH GONNA DO!
I SHOULD TAN YOUR HIDE...
...BUT I'LL HOLD OFF TILL I'VE HEARD YOUR STORY!
START TALKIN'!
MUH NAME IS JESS PARKER...
MUH PA AND ME HAD A SMALL SPREAD A FEW MILES FROM HERE!
YESTERDAY, A RIDER CAME BY...
HOWDY! YORE NEW IN THESE PARTS AIN'T YUH?
YEH! I'M JUST PASSIN' THRU!
3

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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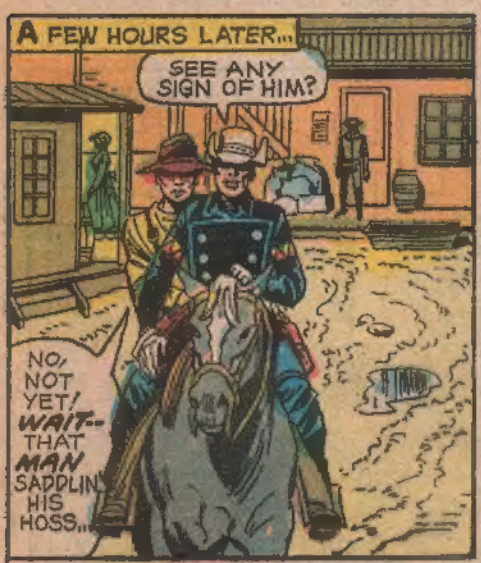
Print Your Last Name Plainly Here

ME AND MUH BOY WERE JUST ABOUT TO HAVE DINNER!
WAL, NOW-- THAT'S MIGHTY KIND OF YUH!
WOULD YUH CARE TO JOIN US!
"BUT WHEN HE GOT INSIDE OUR CABIN..."
FORGET THE GRUB! JUST HAND OVER YORE SAVINGS!
WHA... LOOK, I'M JUST A POOR FARMER!
CAN IT! YUH SODBUSTERS ALWAYS KEEP A NEST EGG STASHED SOMEWHERE! FORK IT OVER!
T-THIS IS OUR LIFE SAVINGS!
AND THAT'S JUST WHAT IT'S DOIN'-- SAVIN' YORE LIFE!
"BUT PA HAD MORE THAN MONEY HIDDEN BENEATH THE FLOOR BOARD!"
WHY YUH DUMB DIRT PUSHER...
KA-POW!
KRAK!
YUH THINK YORE A MATCH FOR A PRO LIKE BEN SLADE? NOT TODAY MISTER! NOT EVER!
KRAK!
KRAK!
KRAK!
PA! PA!! SPEAK TO ME, PA!
HE'S DEAD! YOU'VE KILLED HIM!
I BURIED MUH PA, AND THEN I TOOK OFF AFTER SLADE!
BUT MUH HOSS WENT LAME, AND I HAD TO SHOOT 'IM! THAT'S WHY I WANTED YOURS!
IT AIN'T HARD TO UNDERSTAND YOUR FEELINGS, BUT YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE, BOY!
4

BEN SLADE IS A GUNHAWK! YOU WON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST HIM!
I DON'T CARE! HE KILLED MUH PA, AND HE'S GONNA PAY FOR IT!
WHY NOT LET THE LAW HANDLE SLADE?
THERE AIN'T NO LAW IN THESE PARTS...
...AND EVEN IF THERE WAS, THIS IS SOMETHIN' THAT I GOTTA DO PERSONAL!
YOU'RE SURE SET ON GETTIN' YOURSELF KILLED, AREN'T YOU?
WAIT-- DON'T GO OFF IN A HUFF! COME BACK!
HOW WELL CAN YOU HANDLE A GUN?
FAIR TO MIDDLIN'!
THAT'S NOT GOOD ENUFF... NOT FOR BEN SLADE! I'D BEST GIVE YOU A FEW POINTERS!
ARE YUH GOOD WITH A GUN?
YEP! YOU MIGHT SAY THAT! I'M THE RAWHIDE KID!
THE KID!! JUMPIN' CATFISH! YUH COULD'VE DROPPED ME EASY WHEN I PULLED ON YUH!
I DON'T SHOOT BOYS! NOW LET'S GET STARTED! WE'VE A LOT OF WORK AHEAD OF US!
FIRST OFF IS THE DRAW! MAKE IT SMOOTH AND STEADY!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT SPEED! THAT'LL COME WITH PRACTICE!
DID ALL GUNFIGHTERS START THIS WAY?
NO... JUST THOSE WHO ARE STILL LIVING!
MAKE THE GUN AN EXTENSION OF YOUR HAND! JUST AIM AS THOUGH YOU WERE POINTING... AND SQUEEZE!
KA-POW!
POW!
WHEN YOU SQUARE OFF FOR A SHOOT-OUT, TRY TO KEEP THE SUN AT YOUR BACK! IT'LL GIVE YOU THE EDGE!
RIGHT!
5



TURN AROUND, POLECAT! I'M CALLIN' YUH OUT!
WAL, WAL-- LOOK WHO'S FOLLOWED ME ALL THIS WAY... JUST TO GET HIMSELF KILLED!
G'WAN HOME, SONNY... WHILE YUH STILL CAN!
6

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

## THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST
Now on Sale

**FANTASTIC FOUR #111:** The rampaging Thing turns the city of New York into a blazing battleground, as he attacks the Torch and Mr. Fantastic! And then—enter Bruce Banner! It's dynamite!

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**ASTONISHING TALES #6:** Dr. Doom has a new target—the hidden African kingdom of the avenging T'Challa! Plus—the start of a new and way-out storyline for Ka-Zar! Two tales—two triumphs!

**CONAN THE BARBARIAN #6:** The flutter of gigantic wings shatters the silence—a dim and deadly shape stalks in the dark of the moon—and only Conan the Cimmerian dares stand against it! Crom!

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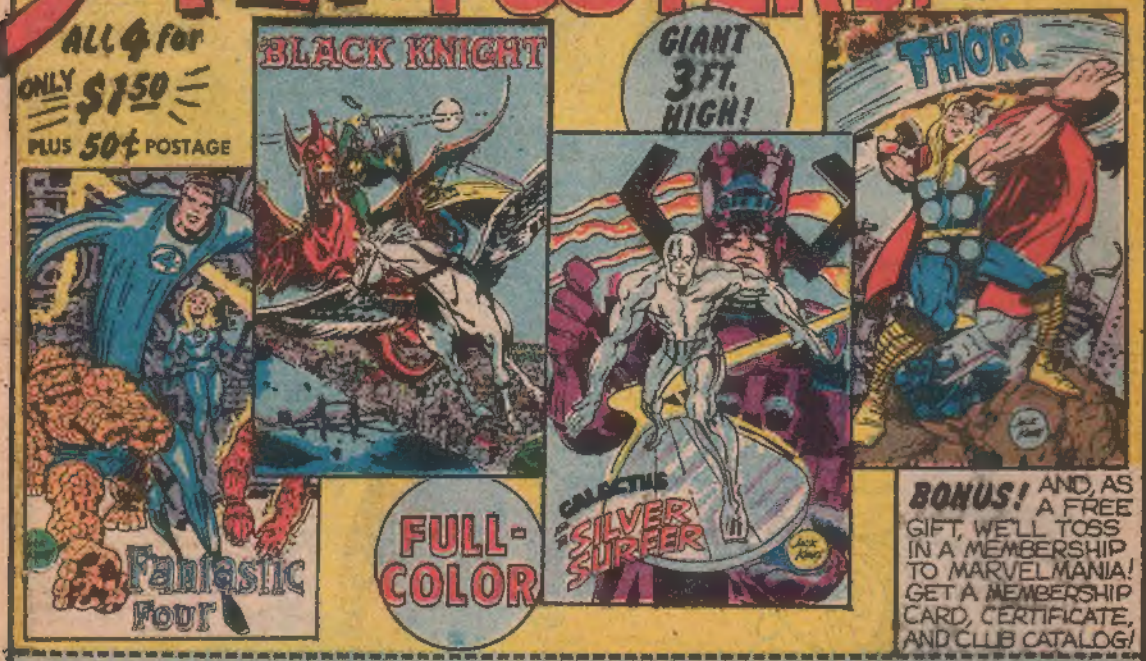


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M. L. B. K!

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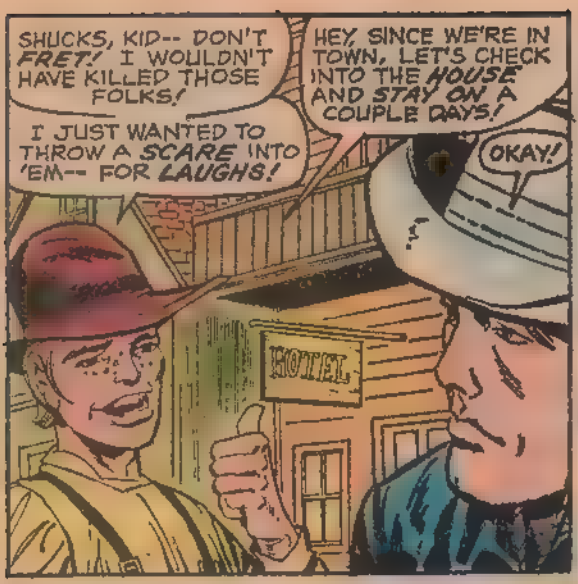
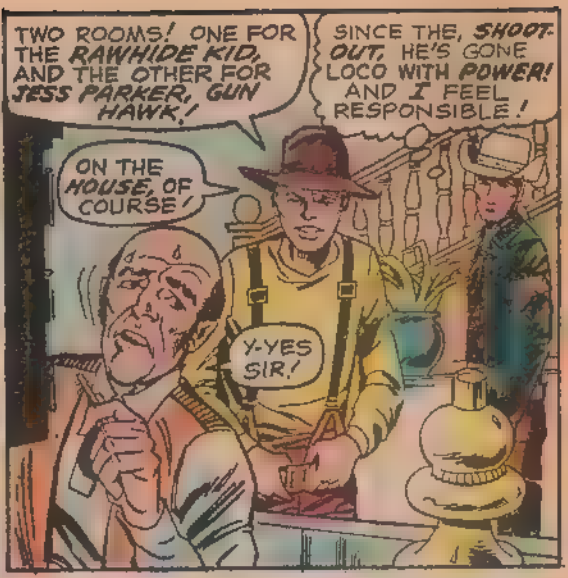
— NOTHING TO BUY!

THE STRONGEST, MOST VIRILE AND ADMIRED MEN ARE BUILT BY THE WEIDER SYSTEM—FAST!

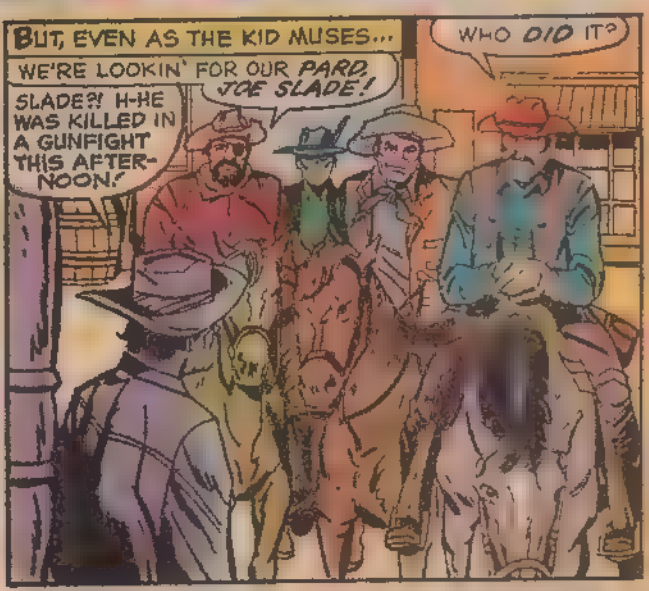
YUH KILLED MUH PA, SLADE... AND YORE GONNA PAY FOR IT!
GO FOR YORE IRON!
I DIDN'T WANT THIS SHOOT-OUT! I TRIED TO AVOID IT!
BUT THIS SQUIRT WON'T LET ME BACK OFF! HE'S GIVIN' ME NO CHOICE!
YUH ALL SEE THAT! YORE ALL WITNESSES!
OKAY, PUNK-- ANY TIME YORE READY!
MISTUH, I'M READY-- NOW!!
KRAK!
UNHHH!
7

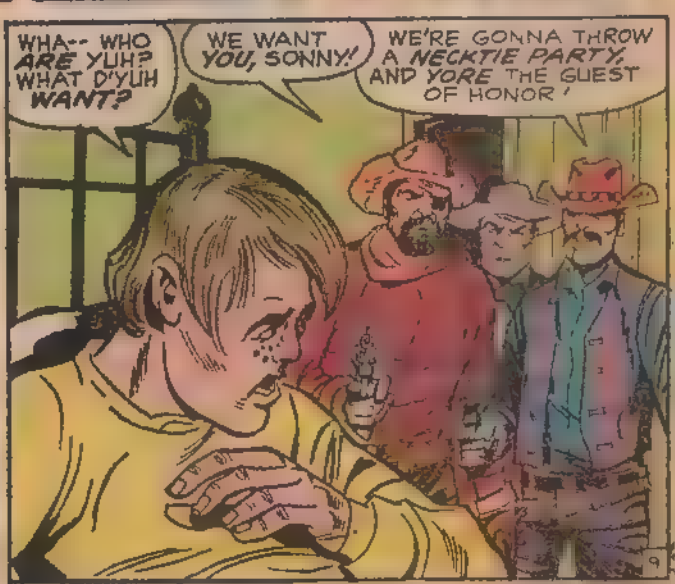
I GOT 'IM! DID 'YA SEE IT, KID? I KILLED 'IM!
I SAW!
I TOOK ON A PROFESSIONAL GUNSLICK-- AND I BEAT 'IM!
FOLKS'LL TALK ABOUT THIS!
I'LL BE FAMOUS!
AND I OWE IT ALL TO YOU!
YUH TAUGHT ME HOW TO HANDLE AN IRON WITH THE BEST OF 'EM!
I'LL ALWAYS BE BEHOLDIN' TO YUH!
SURE, JESS... SURE...
WHAT IN TARN-ATION...
OUT 'A MUH WAY, MISTER! FROM NOW ON, NOBODY WALKS IN FRONT OF JESS PARKER!
'COURSE IF YUH WANT TO OBJECT, I'LL OBLIGE YUH!
GO ON! GO FOR YORE GUN! SEE IF YORE FAST ENUFF TO TAKE THE MAN WHO KILLED BEN SLADE!
N-NO-- I WON'T FIGHT YOU!
HOW ABOUT THE BEST OF YUH YELLA-BELLIES!
WOULD YUH CARE TO GO UP AGAINST ME?
GASP! NO! I AIN'T LOOKIN' TO GET KILLED!
TAKE IT EASY, JESS! GUNFIGHTING IS NO GAME!
8


SHUCKS, KID-- DON'T FRET! I WOULDN'T HAVE KILLED THOSE FOLKS!
I JUST WANTED TO THROW A SCARE INTO 'EM-- FOR LAUGHS!
HEY, SINCE WE'RE IN TOWN, LET'S CHECK INTO THE HOUSE AND STAY ON A COUPLE DAYS!
OKAY!
HOTEL


TWO ROOMS! ONE FOR THE RAWHIDE KID, AND THE OTHER FOR JESS PARKER, GUN HAWK!
SINCE THE, SHOOT-OUT, HE'S GONE LOCO WITH POWER! AND I FEEL RESPONSIBLE!
ON THE HOUSE, OF COURSE!
Y-YES SIR!

I TAUGHT JESS TO HANDLE AN IRON... AND NOW HE'S GUN CRAZY!
I MUST STAY WITH HIM, TO KEEP HIM FROM HARMING INNOCENT FOLKS, TILL HIS GUN FEVER PASSES!
I JUST HOPE IT'S OVER SOON!



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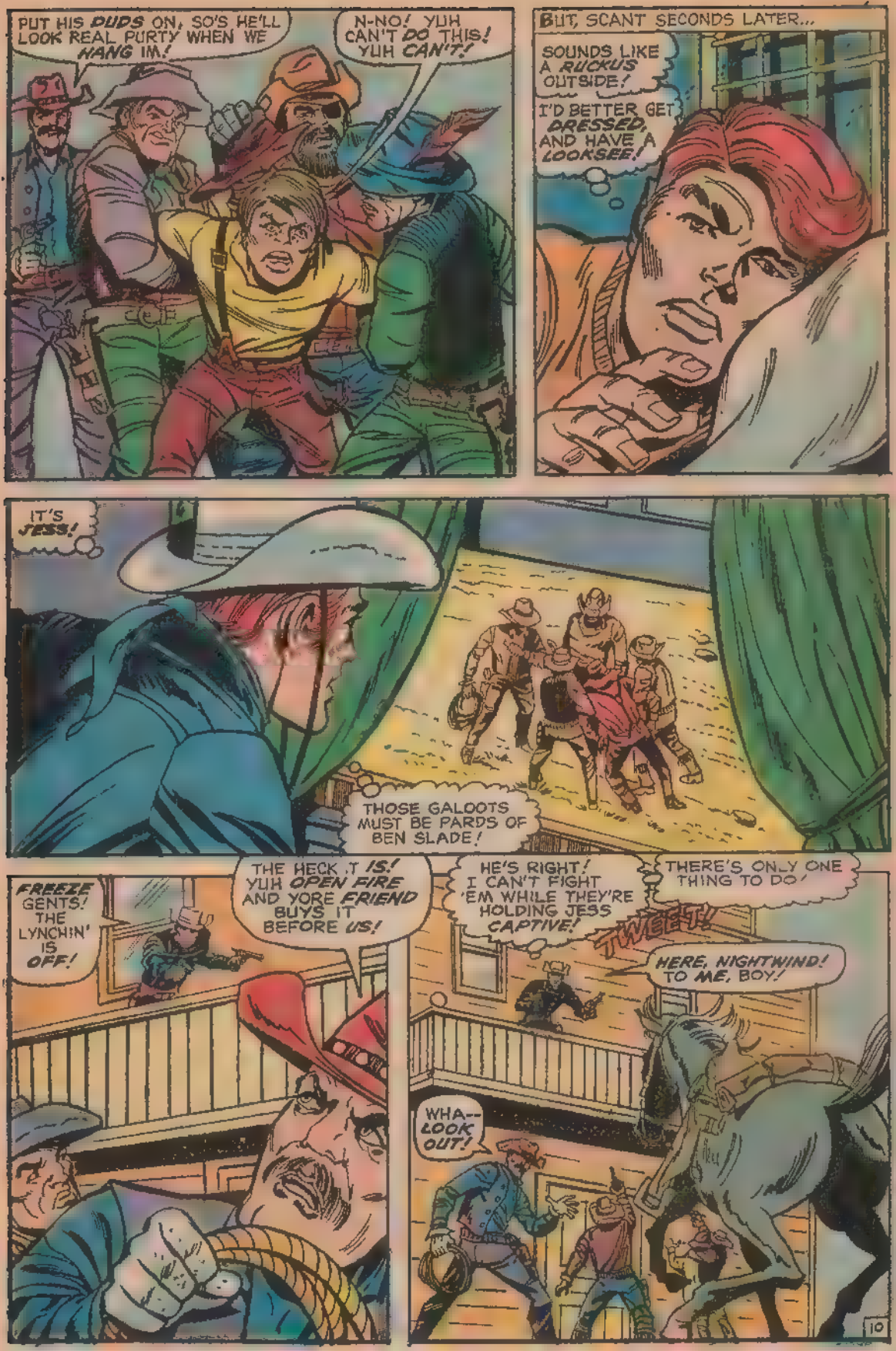
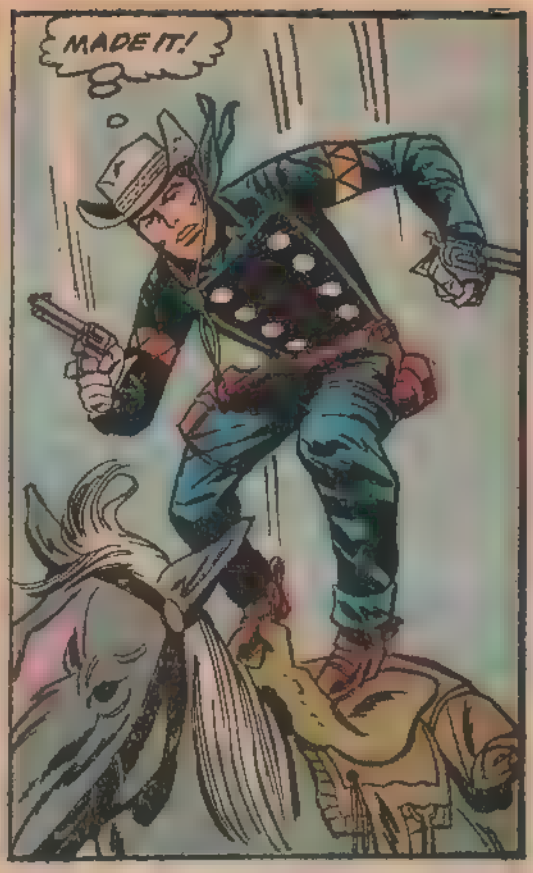
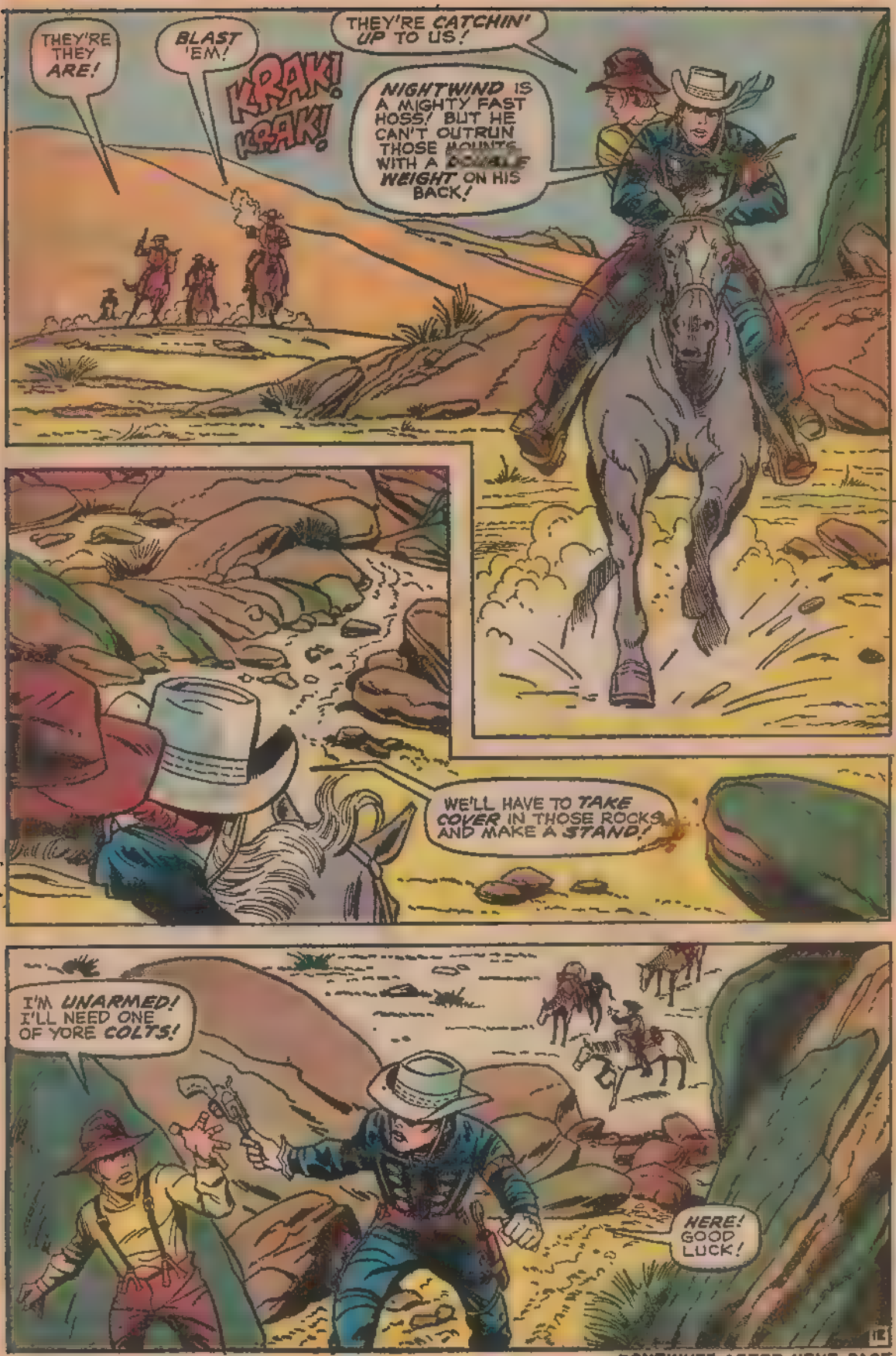

PUT HIS DUDS ON, SO'S HE'LL LOOK REAL PURTY WHEN WE HANG IM!
N-NO! YUH CAN'T DO THIS! YUH CAN'T!
BUT, SCANT SECONDS LATER...
SOUNDS LIKE A RUCKUS OUTSIDE!
I'D BETTER GET DRESSED, AND HAVE A LOOKSEE!
IT'S JESS!
THOSE GALOOTS MUST BE PARDS OF BEN SLADE!
FREEZE GENTS! THE LYNCHIN' IS OFF!
THE HECK IT IS! YUH OPEN FIRE AND YORE FRIEND BUYS IT BEFORE US!
HE'S RIGHT! I CAN'T FIGHT 'EM WHILE THEY'RE HOLDING JESS CAPTIVE!
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO!
TWEET!
HERE, NIGHTWIND! TO ME, BOY!
WHA-- LOOK OUT!
10

HERE HE COMES!
I'VE GOT TO TIME THIS JUST RIGHT!


MADE IT!

AND THE WOULD-BE LYNCHERS REMAIN STARTLED JUST LONG ENOUGH FOR THE KID TO GRAB THEIR INTENDED VICTIM!
WOW! THAT WAS SOME STUNT!
SAVE THE APPLAUSE! WE'RE NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET!
KRAK! KRAK!

THEY'RE GETTING AWAY!
MOUNT UP! WE'RE GOIN' AFTER 'EM!
KRAK! KRAK!


THEY'RE THEY ARE!
BLAST 'EM!
KRAK! KRAK!
THEY'RE CATCHIN' UP TO US!
NIGHTWIND IS A MIGHTY FAST HOSS! BUT HE CAN'T OUTRUN THOSE MOUNTS WITH A DOUBLE WEIGHT ON HIS BACK!
WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE COVER IN THOSE ROCKS AND MAKE A STAND!
I'M UNARMED! I'LL NEED ONE OF YORE COLTS!
HERE! GOOD LUCK!
12

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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Fantastic New Discoveries in the science of body-building. Our method will add inches of powerful muscles to arms, chest, shoulders & legs. Learn secrets on trimming the waist with ultra-modern methods fast. Results Guaranteed! Send for free brochure. Send a dime for postage and handling.

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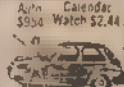

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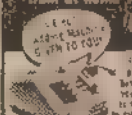

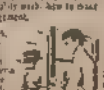

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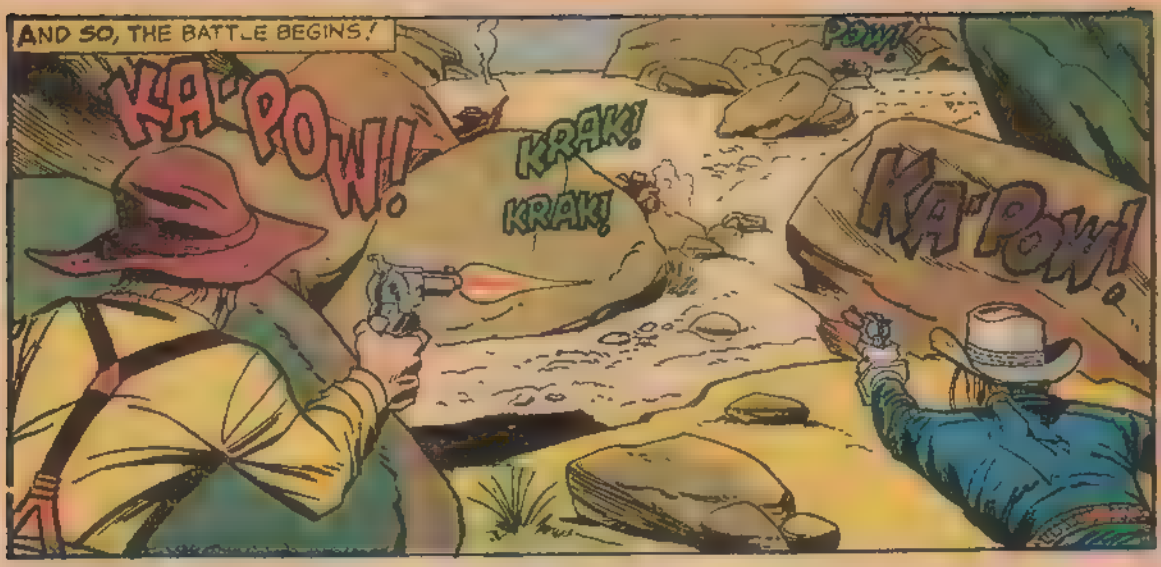
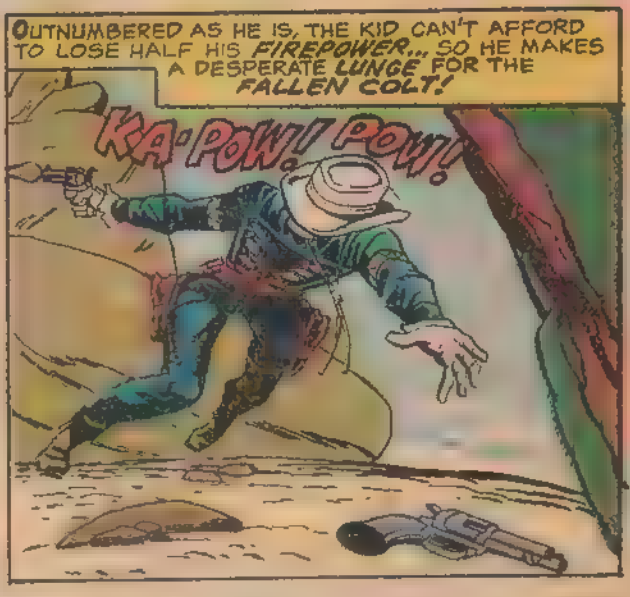
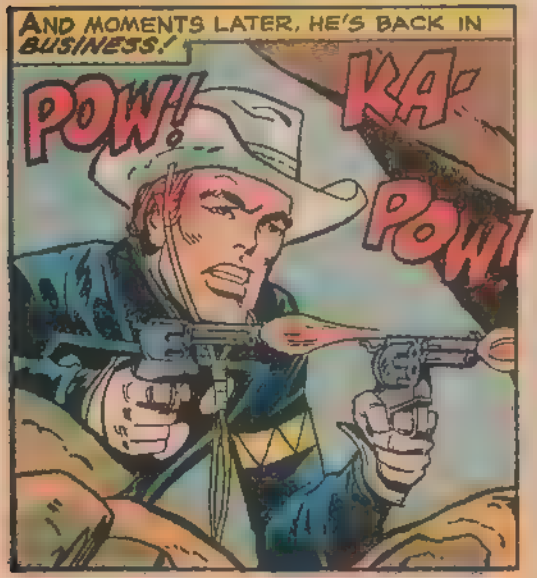
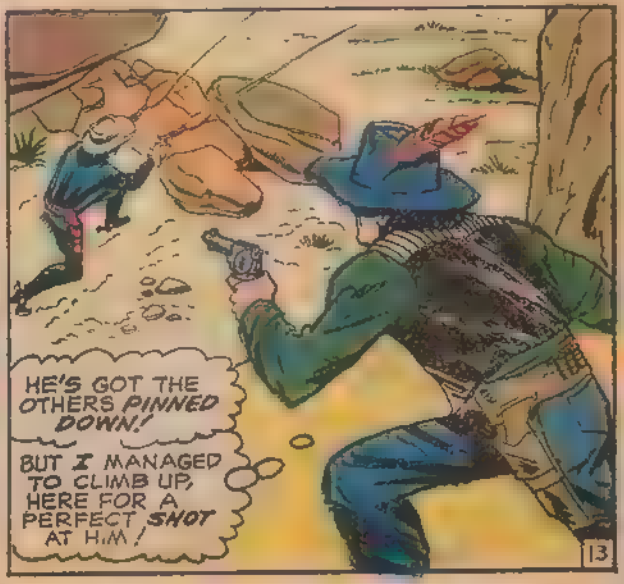
My shoes size is _____ My suit or dress size _____


AND SO, THE BATTLE BEGINS!
KA-POW!
KRAK!
KRAK!
POW!
KA-POW!

BUT THE INEXPERIENCED YOUTH IS OVERZEALOUS AND OVEREXPOSED!
KRAK!
UNHH! MUH ARM!


OUTNUMBERED AS HE IS, THE KID CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE HALF HIS FIREPOWER... SO HE MAKES A DESPERATE LUNGE FOR THE FALLEN COLT!
KA-POW! POW!


AND MOMENTS LATER, HE'S BACK IN BUSINESS!
POW!
KA-
POW!


HE'S GOT THE OTHERS PINNED DOWN!
BUT I MANAGED TO CLIMB UP HERE FOR A PERFECT SHOT AT HIM!

KID! LOOK OUT! ON THE ROCKS BEHIND YUH!
KA-POW!
AS THE KID TURNS TO DROP THE BUSHWHACKER, HIS OTHER FOES SEE THEIR CHANCE TO RUSH HIM... WHICH IS THE LAST MISTAKE THEY EVER MAKE!
KA-POW!
POW!
IT'S ALL OVER!
I-I THOUGHT GUNFIGHTIN' WAS FUN! BUT AFTER THIS FRACAS...
YOU'VE LOST YOUR STOMACH FOR IT!
YEH, I RECKON SO!
THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO HEAR!
WHERE ARE WE GOIN'?
TO TOWN, FOR A DOC TO LOOK AT YOUR ARM! THEN HOME, BOY! HOME!
THE END

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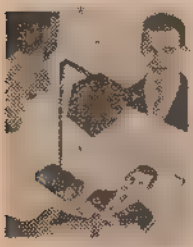

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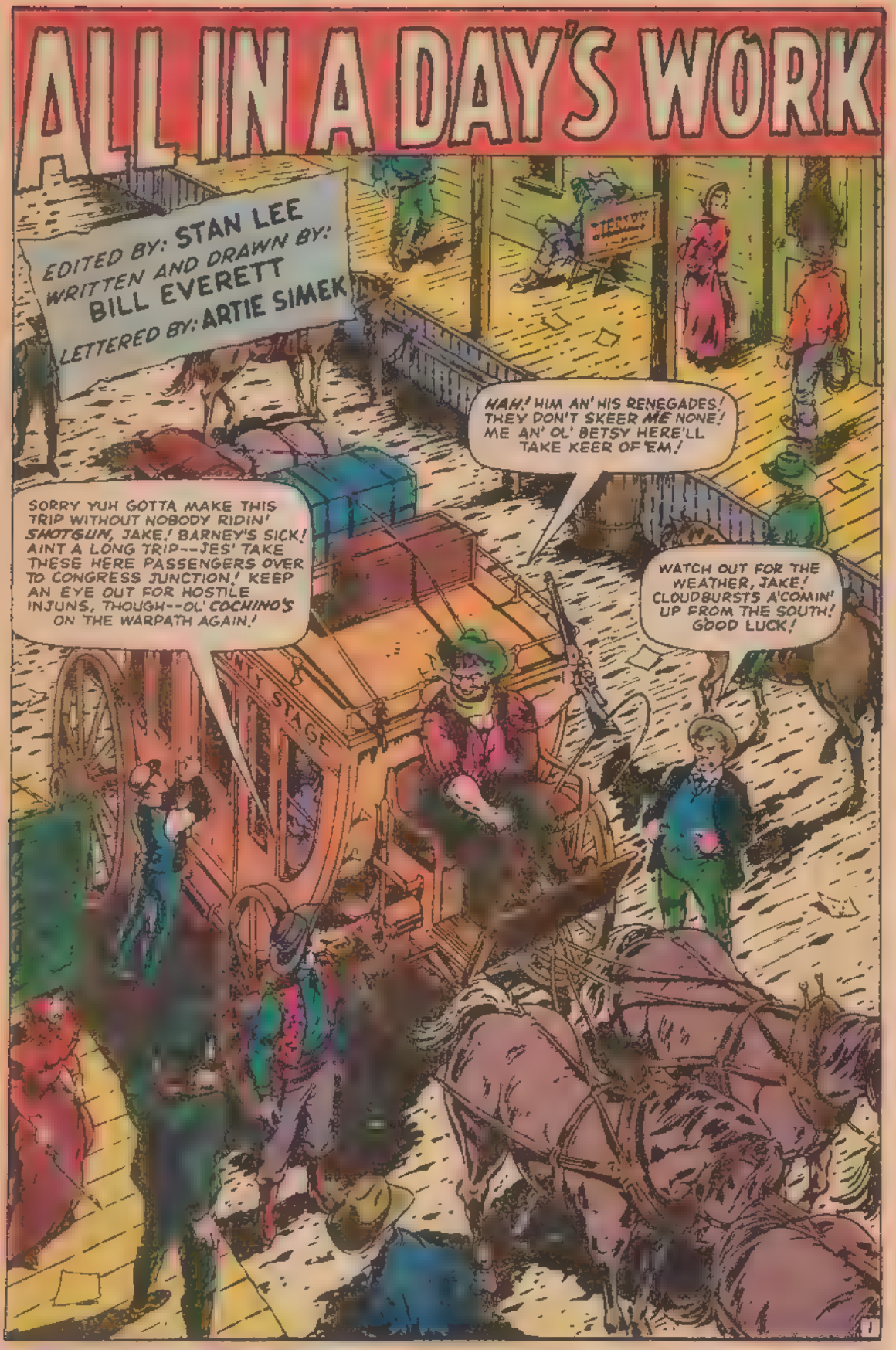
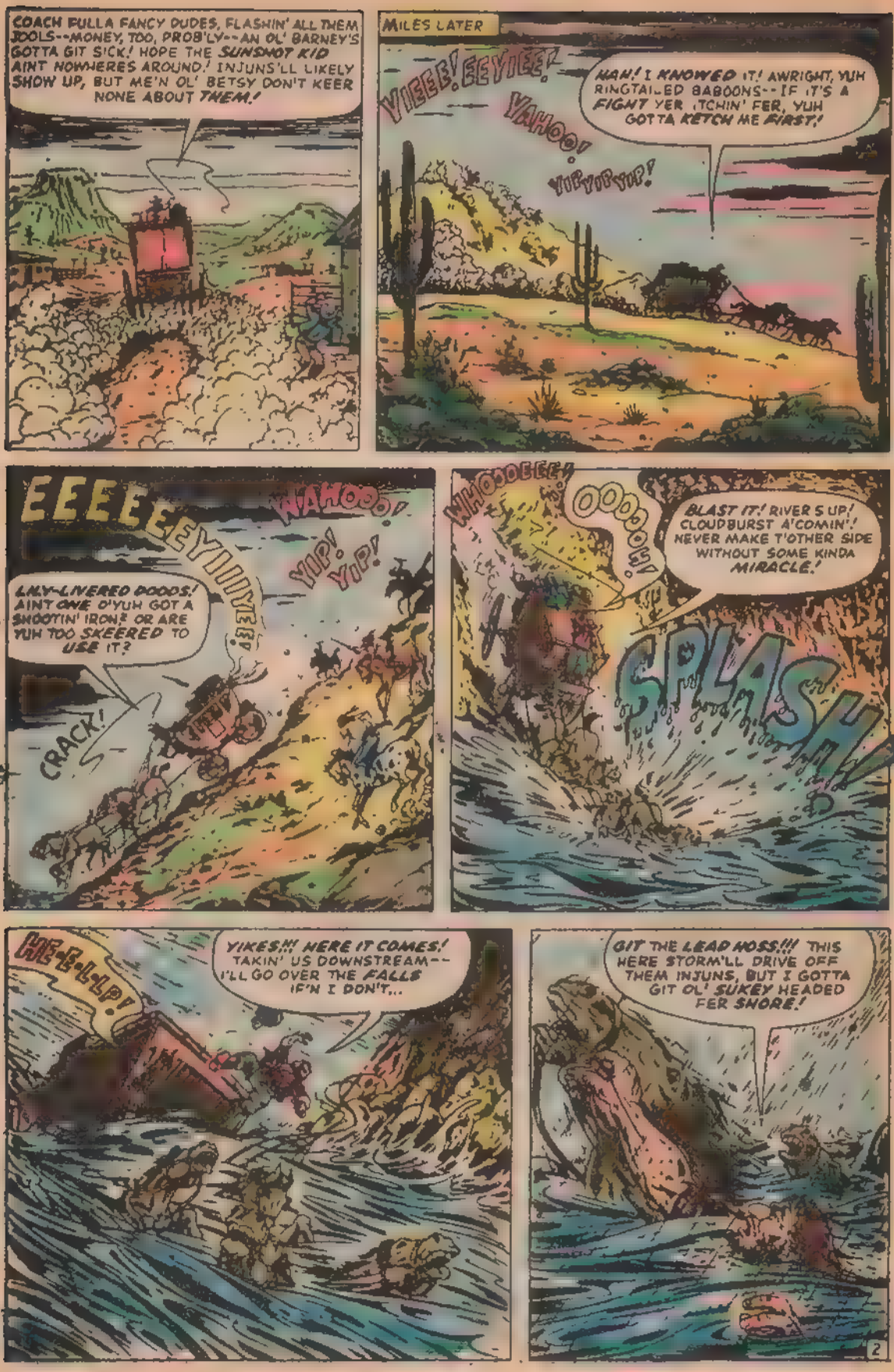
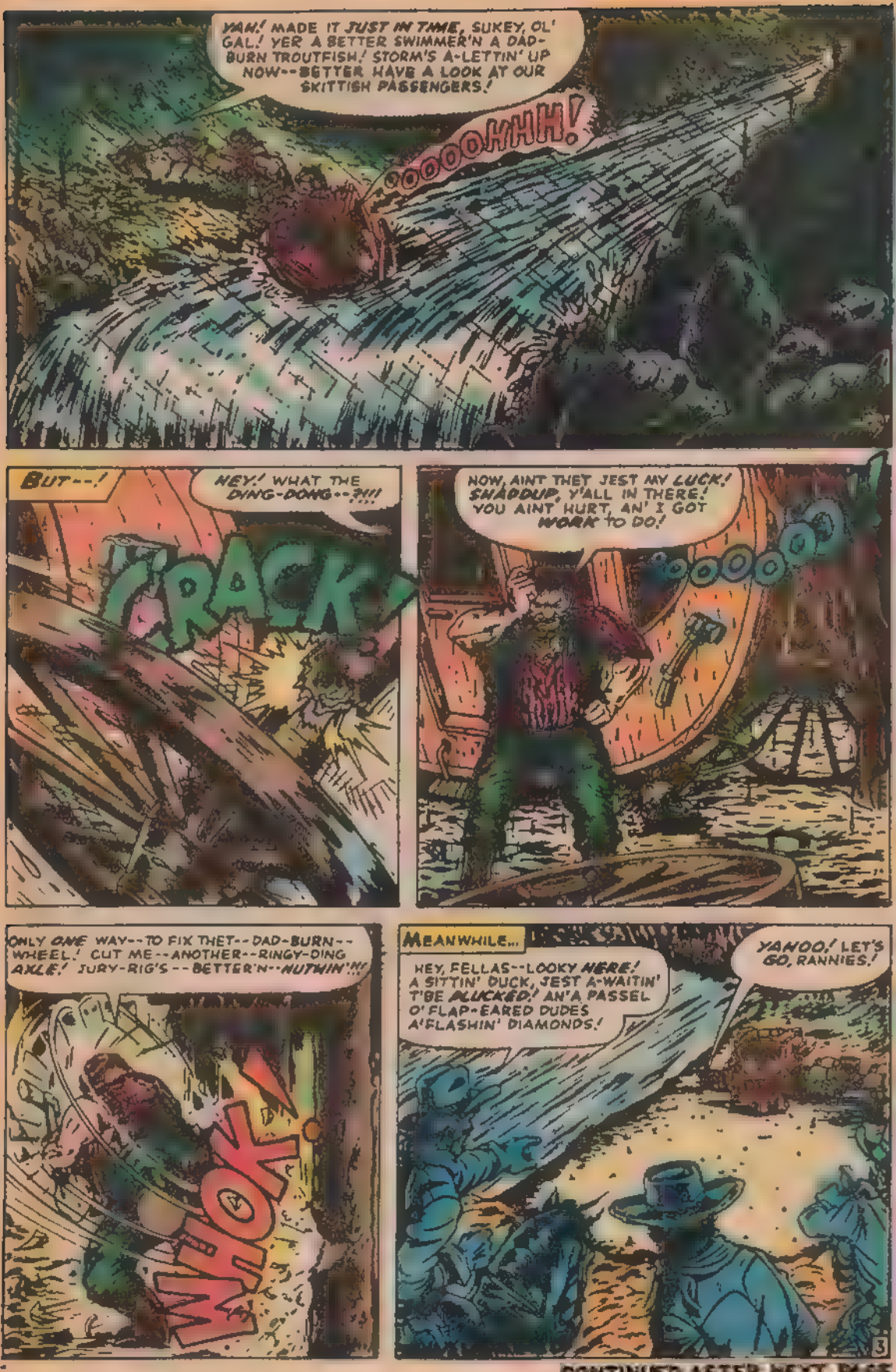

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK
EDITED BY: STAN LEE
WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY: BILL EVERETT
LETTERED BY: ARTIE SIMEK
HAH! HIM AN' HIS RENEGADES! THEY DON'T SKEER ME NONE! ME AN' OL' BETSY HERE'LL TAKE KEER OF 'EM!
SORRY YUH GOTTA MAKE THIS TRIP WITHOUT NOBODY RIDIN' SHOTGUN, JAKE! BARNEY'S SICK! AINT A LONG TRIP--JES' TAKE THESE HERE PASSENGERS OVER TO CONGRESS JUNCTION! KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR HOSTILE INJUNS, THOUGH--OL' COCHINO'S ON THE WARPATH AGAIN!
WATCH OUT FOR THE WEATHER, JAKE! CLOUDBURSTS A'COMIN' UP FROM THE SOUTH! GOOD LUCK!
STAGE


COACH PULLA FANCY DUDES, FLASHIN' ALL THEM JOOLS--MONEY, TOO, PROB'LY--AN OL' BARNEY'S GOTTA GIT SICK! HOPE THE SUNSHOT KID AINT NOWHERES AROUND! INJUNS'LL LIKELY SHOW UP, BUT ME'N OL' BETSY DON'T KEER NONE ABOUT THEM!
MILES LATER
YIEEE! EEYIEE!
YAHOO!
YIP YIP YIP!
NAH! I KNOWED IT! AWRIGHT, YUH RINGTAILED BABOONS--IF IT'S A FIGHT YER ITCHIN' FER, YUH GOTTA KETCH ME FIRST!
EEEEEEEYIIIIEE!
WAHOO!
YIP! YIP!
LILY-LIVERED DOGGS! AINT ONE O'YUH GOT A SHOOTIN' IRON? OR ARE YUH TOO SKEERED TO USE IT?
CRACK!
WHOOOEEE!
OOOOOE!
BLAST IT! RIVER'S UP! CLOUDBURST A'COMIN'! NEVER MAKE T'OTHER SIDE WITHOUT SOME KINDA MIRACLE!
SPLASH
HE-E-L-L-P!
YIKES!!! HERE IT COMES! TAKIN' US DOWNSTREAM--I'LL GO OVER THE FALLS IF'N I DON'T...
GIT THE LEAD HOSS!!! THIS HERE STORM'LL DRIVE OFF THEM INJUNS, BUT I GOTTA GIT OL' SUKEY HEADED FER SHORE!
2


YAN! MADE IT JUST IN TIME, SUKEY, OL' GAL! YER A BETTER SWIMMER'N A DAD-BURN TROUTFISH! STORM'S A-LETTIN' UP NOW--BETTER HAVE A LOOK AT OUR SKITTISH PASSENGERS!
OOOOHHHH!
BUT--!
HEY! WHAT THE DING-DONG--?!!!
TRACK!
NOW, AINT THET JEST MY LUCK! SHADDUP, Y'ALL IN THERE! YOU AINT HURT, AN' I GOT WORK TO DO!
OOOOO
ONLY ONE WAY--TO FIX THET--DAD-BURN--WHEEL! CUT ME--ANOTHER--RINGY-DING AXLE! JURY-RIG'S--BETTER'N--NUTHIN'!!!
WHOK!
MEANWHILE...
HEY, FELLAS--LOOKY HERE! A SITTIN' DUCK, JEST A-WAITIN' T'BE PLUCKED! AN'A PASSEL O' FLAP-EARED DUDES A'FLASHIN' DIAMONDS!
YAHOO! LET'S GO, RANNIES!
3

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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**GAME WARDEN**

**FISH-WILDLIFE MANAGER**

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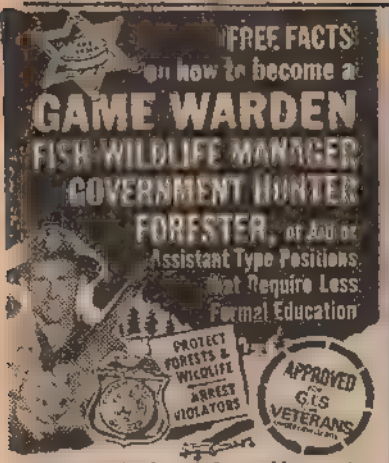


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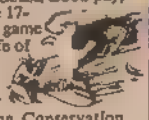

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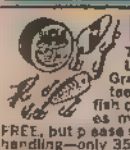

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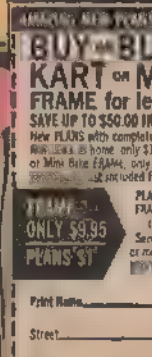

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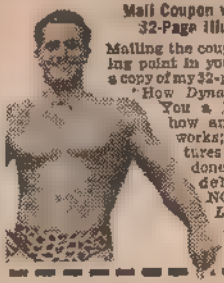

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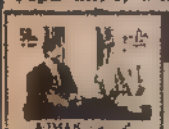

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OHH!
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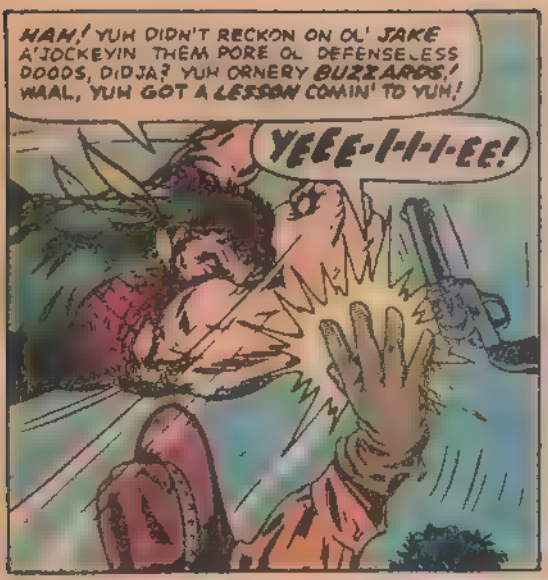
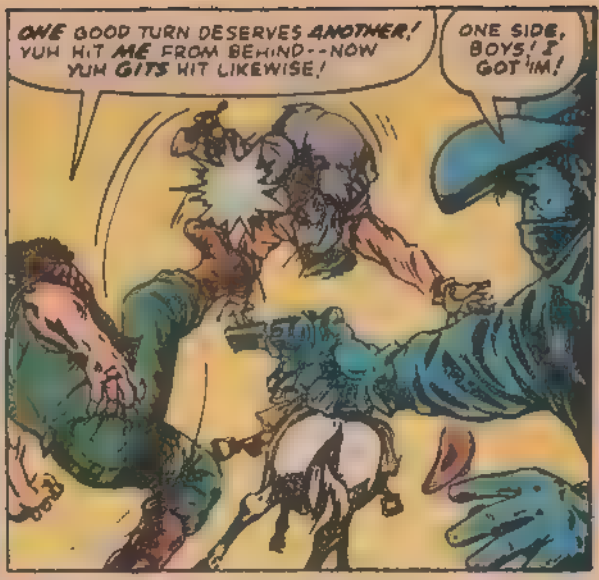
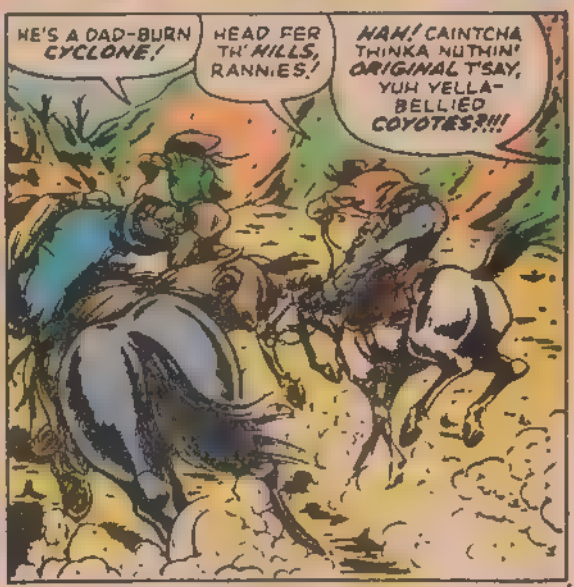
YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH THIS, YOU RUFFIANS!
HEY, SUNSHOT! LOOKA HERE! THIS HERE'S OL' JAKE'S STAGE! HE GOTTA BE AROUN' SOME-PLACE!
JAKE???
I AINT HANKERIN' TO TANGLE WITH THET CRITTER! HE'S A PLUMB LOCO HYLOCAT! COME ON--LET'S YAMOOSE OUTTA HERE!
HEARD YELLIN'--SCREAMIN'! WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE?
ROBBERS!!! THEY WENT THATAWAY!
WAAL, NOW, AINT THAT CUTE!?! I SEE 'EM, THE BACK-BITIN' SIDEWINDERS! WAAL, THEY AINT GOT AWAY FROM OL' JAKE YET!!!
YU!
BOINGGG!

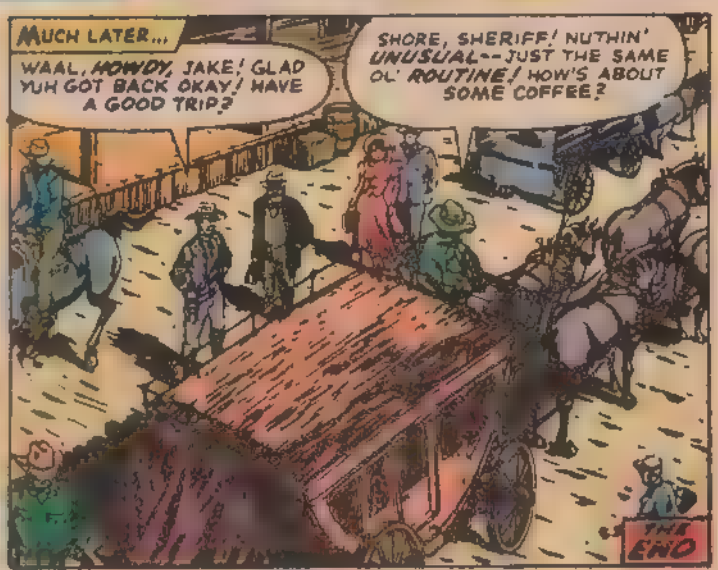

HAH! YUH DIDN'T RECKON ON OL' JAKE A'JOCKEYIN THEM PORE OL DEFENSELESS DOODS, DIDJA? YUH ORNERY BUZZARDS! WAAL, YUH GOT A LESSON COMIN' TO YUH!
YEEE-I-I-I-EE!


ONE GOOD TURN DESERVES ANOTHER! YUH HIT ME FROM BEHIND--NOW YUH GITS HIT LIKEWISE!
ONE SIDE, BOYS! I GOT 'IM!

YUH GOT NUTHIN', PARDNER! NUTHIN' BUT A FISTFUL O' TROUBLE, YUH MIZZUBLE VARMINT!
AAAGHHH!
CHUNK!


HE'S A DAD-BURN CYCLONE!
HEAD FER TH' HILLS, RANNIES!
HAH! CAINTCHA THINKA NUTHIN' ORIGINAL T'SAY, YUH YELLA-BELLIED COYOTES?!!!

NOW, LESSEE--WHERE WUZ I? OH, YEAH--THAT THERE AXLE!
5


MUCH LATER...
WAAL, HOWDY, JAKE! GLAD YUH GOT BACK OKAY! HAVE A GOOD TRIP?
SHORE, SHERIFF! NUTHIN' UNUSUAL--JUST THE SAME OL' ROUTINE! HOW'S ABOUT SOME COFFEE?
THE END

# HINTS OF HILARIOUS HI-JINX AND HOMOGENEOUS HAPPENINGS HAPPILY HARVESTED FOR HEROES LIKE YOU!

**ITEM!** Remember when we asked you to send us some one-liners beginning with "Life is—"? Well, we never knew there were so many philosophers amongst Marveldom Assembled. We were swamped with 'em. And now, just to get us off to a nutty start, here are a few typical samples of the zillions we received: "Life is a four-letter word!" "Life is when you're not dead!" "Life is tragedy for those who feel, and comedy for those who think!" "Life is a cosmic joke — and death, the punchline!" "Life is outside of Marvel Comics!" How *about* that? Our thanks to Tom King, Greg Sturgeon, Tom Lane, D. Brewer, and Raymond Vanover for the above—and to all you other geniuses whose entries made our reading a little more pleasant these past few months.

**ITEM!** Here's the latest scoop on some of our momentously mixed-up artist change-overs. GIL (SUGAR-LIPS) KANE has been doing such a great job on SPIDER-MAN that JAZZY JOHNNY ROMITA, who's been anxious for a change-of-pace, has eagerly turned the ol' Web-Swinger's reins over to garrulous Gil. But, don't think you've seen the last of Ring-A-Ding! Johnny is about to start pencilling none other than CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE FALCON, effective with the current ish. (After all, since Spidey himself is the guest star, why not?) As for GENE (THE DEAN) COLAN, we've a brand new project lined up for him — another 50¢ mag labelled M, for the mature reader; and we'll tell you more about it as soon as he finishes the first yarn. But, while we're waiting, Genial Gene will soon be lending his magical touch to the DR. DOOM series now running in ASTONISHING TALES. And, if you're wondering about WONDROUS WALLY WOOD, here's another bombshell: You'll find his awesome artistry appearing in the new, sensational KULL THE CONQUEROR, on sale this very minute! Also, before we forget, HONEST JOHN SEVERIN has just returned to the fold, teaming up with ROSS (BOSS) ANDRU to bring you one of the most electrifying SUB-MARINER mags of all. And, if you think we'll forget to tell you that LONESOME GEORGE TUSKA is once more responsible for the amazin' artwork on IRON MAN—you're right—we almost forgot! There's lots more, but let's save it so we'll have something to toss atcha next month.

**ITEM!** Got time for some name-dropping again? Okay, let's go! If anyone claims that comic-mags aren't like show biz, don't tell it to STAN and ROY. Our two swashbucklin' scripters have been having a ball lately. Stan, in addition to his screenplay writing, is currently working on a new long-play album with ICARUS, the barnstormin' bombshell British group. And most of you probably saw him on TO TELL THE TRUTH recently, as the panel tried to guess the real Stan Lee. Of course, that was before he cut two tapes for CBC (the CANADIAN BROADCASTING CO.), as well as filming a TV appearance on the same network—just after spending two hilarious hours on NYC radio station WMCA's ALEX BENNETT show, where our leader knocked 'em dead by reading a few pages of Spider-Man to the world outside! As for Rollickin' Roy, he was on the famous JOE FRANKLIN radio stanza, reminiscing about the past (which isn't easy to do when you're still on the sunny side of thirty!)—and then, before the applause had a chance to fade, he hied himself thither to CARDOZA COLLEGE at Long Island's STONYBROOK U., where he spent his time fielding students' questions on everything from the relative strength of Thor and the Hulk, to the relevance and role of comic-books in today's troubled world. (And, off the record, Roy tells us that, if he had to make a choice, he prefers the former!) Anyway, judging by all the lecture requests and talk-show invites that are continually bombarding ye benevolent Bullpen, it seems that our bewildering brand of Marvel madness is still as habit-forming as ever—and that's just the way we want it!

**ITEM!** Hey, how about a salute to Marvel's unsung heroes—the plucky paint pushers who color our lively little epics thru rain, and storm, and spring fever! Dean of our cosmic coloring staff is none other than STAN GOLDBERG, who also draws MILLIE THE MODEL whenever we're not looking. Next we have MARVELOUS MIMI GOLD, who specializes in THE HULK, CONAN, and DAREDEVIL. (The coloring, that is!) NEFARIOUS NEAL ADAMS colors his own INHUMANS, just as TERRIFIC TOM PALMER applies the tintinnabulatin' tints to the DAREDEVIL sagas which he inks. SAUCY SHARON COHEN, as all Marveldom knows, is the one who lends many-hued sparkle to IRON MAN, SGT. FURY, and the RAWHIDE KID. Then, whenever we're in a jam (like always!) —MERRY MARIE SEVERIN, PLUCKY PAUL REINMAN and BIG BILL EVERETT are always there to lend us a hand. Now that we've exposed these sterling stalwarts to the public gaze, you know who to write to when you wanna complain about the color of Bruce Banner's trousers, or some other equally world-shattering matter! (We'll do *anything* to pass the buck!)

## STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Lately, more and more people have been discussing the relevancy of comics. Whenever the conversation arises, comic-books are inevitably compared to movies, plays, and TV shows, and those of us involved in the scripting of a comic are usually asked how our efforts compare to the creation of a scenario for stage, screen, or television. Since there's so much interest in the subject, I'd like to attempt to illuminate it a bit, though my premise may surprise you. Actually, writing a viable comic-book story is probably more difficult than writing a script for any other medium! Why? Well, think about it a bit. Though the comic-book script requires the same attention to characterization, the same realistic dialogue, and the same dramatic literary structure as any other type of scenario, only the comic-book writer must contend with the torturous limitation of space! Only the comic book scripter must capsulize, in a few brief dialogue balloons, the same premise that an author in any other medium may take page after page to expand upon. Yet, the comic-book writer, limited to a few words per dialogue balloon, must give his reader the same reading satisfaction, mental stimulation, and cultural fulfillment as any other practitioner of the literary arts. And so far we've only discussed the script-writing — we haven't even touched upon the inimitable artwork. An analysis of some of the important facets of comic-book illustration will follow in a future soapbox — as soon as we can figure out what they are.

Onward!

Stan

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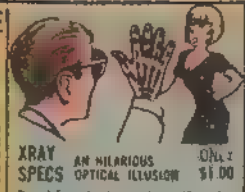

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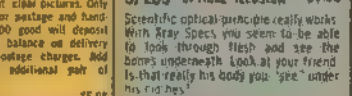

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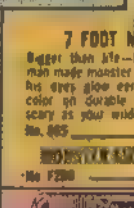

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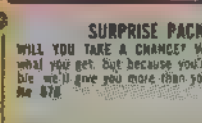

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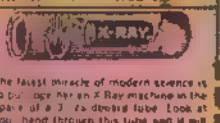

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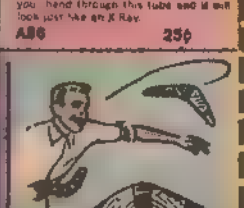

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# RIDIN' THE TRAIL WITH RAWHIDE

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 625 MADISON AVE. N.Y.C. 10022

Dear Stan and Larry,

I have been a follower of the RAWHIDE KID for over two years, and I must say that it is your finest Western magazine. It ranks, in my opinion, at the top, alongside the HULK and SPIDER-MAN.

But there is one problem which follows Rawhide through-out his travels, and that is the fear and distrust of the good and decent folk. True, the Rawhide Kid has the reputation of a wanted gunhawk, but, in all the issues I have read, he has never committed a crime and he has helped the decent people who scorn him more times than I can count.

I have just finished reading issue #83, and to me it was the straw that broke the camel's back! It seems that in every issue, at the end he has to push on because he is recognized or he kills someone, or something like that.

Now, in an old issue of KID COLT, the Kid was made an offer. If he captured the Fat Man, all charges against him would be dropped and he could live the life he always wanted to live. But, true to Marvel's tradition of never changing their comics, he gave the credit to a wounded deputy so his family wouldn't starve. How noble of him! But, it doesn't really matter because Kid Colt isn't in the same class as Rawhide. Don't get me wrong—KID COLT is a fair magazine, but the reader can't identify with him as they can with Rawh de

Alright, now, when Rawhide or Kid Colt do get the chance to clear their names, they blow it. This is because you, Stan Lee, and you, Larry Lieber, feel that Rawhide's reputation, and the distrust of the common people, is important to Rawhide's character and the realism which is so necessary for this type of magazine to be a success.

But, in my opinion, and the opinions in the letters sections that I have read, I think that Rawhide's character is set, and his character and the realism of the magazine would not be affected if his name was cleared. Now, if Rawhide's rep, was gone, he could be what he always wanted to be, a decent and respectable man

In issue #83, you have a very good idea for bringing about this change. Rawhide could become a Sheriff and be respectable, but still have the rep of a fast gun, though not an outlaw. This way he could still be a fast gun and fight gunslingers, but he would also be what he has always wanted to be. Respectable.

Now, if you feel that it is too early for Rawhide to settle down, he could still be decent and respectable, but he could go around doing what he has always done, which is helping people. You could have him working on a ranch one ish and the next he could wander into town. It would be almost the same as now, because you can take away his reputation as an outlaw, but he still would be a fast gun and gunslingers would call him out, etc. There are innumerable possibilities to completing the Rawhide Kid saga if he were no longer an outlaw, and it would not change the realism of the magazine.

I do hope that you will think over my suggestion and maybe incorporate it into the magazine. Thank you for allowing me to bend your ear for so long. And, thank you for putting out your fine magazines. They bring myself and my friends hours of reading pleasure.

Steve Nelson, 215 Knaop Lane
Eugene, Oregon 97402

**Thank for your thoughtful comments and suggestions, Steve. We've had a number of requests like yours, and usually we put them in a letters column and ask for comments. Sometimes we get some, sometimes not—but we get the feeling that most of our RAWHIDE fans like the Kid the way he is.**

**It's not so much that they like to see the Kid miserable, but that his being on the run provides the most realistic justification for him to keep moving all over the West—always meeting new people and getting involved in new locales. If enough people agree with you, though, it might be worth a try for a few issues —what do you say, out there?**

Dear Stan and Larry,

I felt that RAWHIDE KID #83 was one of the most symbolic Western stories in quite a while. Again, the Kid's plight is shown —he tried to prove himself and again lost

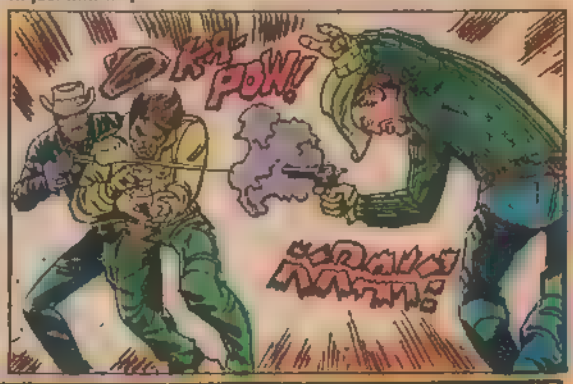
Also, the outlaw's world—one of evil and vengence, an unending whirlpool of conceit and hate which can only end in . . . death, the supreme escape.

And, how about when the Kid went "blind"? Truly, a beautiful portrayal of the saying—"Perhaps the blind can see more than they with sight." Well, at least that's how I saw R.K. #83.

Keep it up, man.

James Rubino, 7521 Grant Ct.
Hollywood, Fla. 33024

**Sounds like you're seeing straight and true, James. Hope there'll be more of our sage-brush spectaculars that grab you in just that way.**

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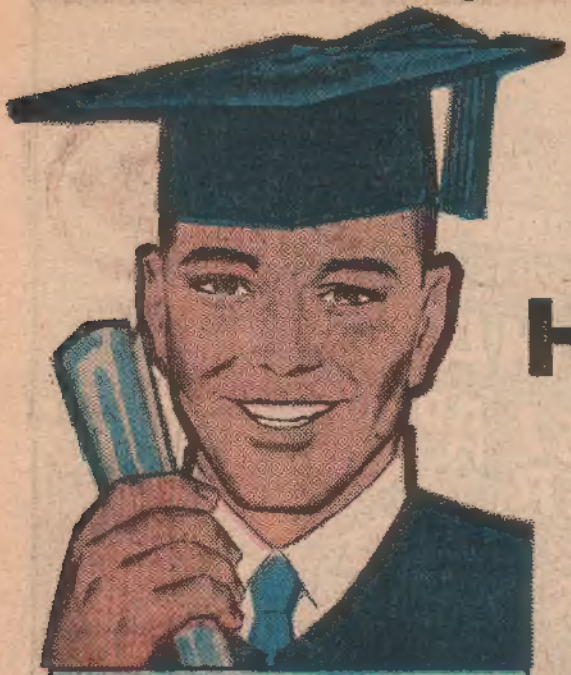

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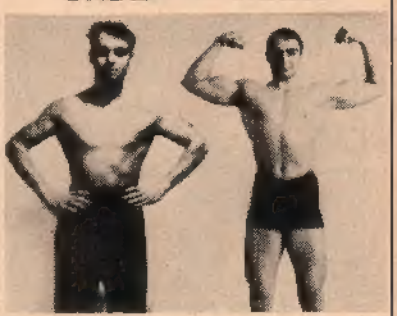

Photo of Mr. Jack Seiler Before Starting Telepander Training Program

Mr. Jack Seiler After Telepander Training Chest: 46" Biceps: 16" Calves: 14" Thighs: 25"

### 25 TO 40 YEARS

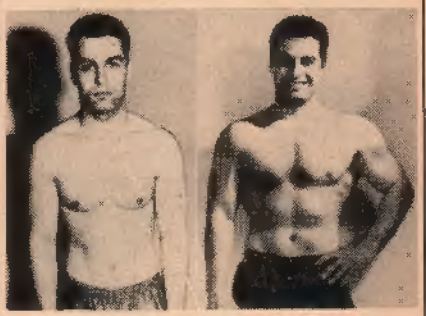

Photo of Mr. J. Ullman Before Telepander Chest: 38½" Biceps: 13" Calves: 13½" Thighs: 20"

Mr. J. Ullman After 35 Days of Telepander Training Chest: 43½" Biceps: 15" Calves: 14½" Thighs: 23"

### OVER 40 YEARS

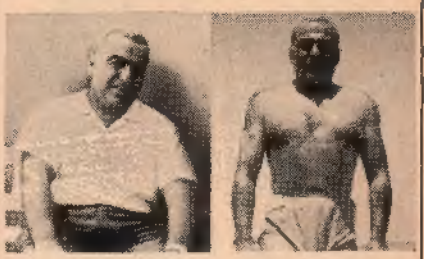

Photo of Mr. M. Addas Before Starting the Telepander Training Program

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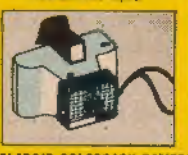

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